

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2661

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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BRUSSELS FOR SENSER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, TH

SUBJECT: SECOND ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

1. THE SECOND ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE WAS HELD MAY 26-28 IN BANGKOK AND PATTAYA. ATTENDING WERE DR. SUBROTA, MINISTER OF MANPOWER, TRANSMIGRATION AND CO-OPERATIVES, INDONESIA; DATUK LEE SAN CHOON, MINISTER OF LABOR AND MANPOWER, MALAYSIA; BLASS F. OPLE, SECRETARY OF LABOR, PHILIPPINES; ONG PANG BOON, MINISTER FOR LABOR, SINGAPORE; AND SAMAK SUNTHOROWET, MINISTER OF INTERIOR, THAILAND. RTG GAVE LABOR MINISTERS RED CARPET TREATMENT INCLUDING AUDIENCE WITH THE KING AND OPENING CEREMONY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE PRESIDED OVER BY PM THANIN KRAIWHICHIAN.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE, LABOR MINISTERS ISSUED 13-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINT JOINT COMMUNIQUE (TEXT FORWARDED SEPARATELY). THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE ARE:

A. QUOTE THE MEETING REVIEWED THE PROGRESS MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE SEVEN-POINT PROGRAMME OF ACTION ADOPTED AT THE SPECIAL MEETING IN BAGUIO CITY IN MAY 1976. TO ENSURE CONTINUED PROGRESS, THE MEETING DESIGNATED SPECIFIC FOCAL POINTS IN EACH COUNTRY FOR FUTURE CO-ORDINATION AND IDENTIFIED THE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

OF EACH COUNTRY FOR THE INTER-MINISTRY FELLOWSHIPS PROJECT WHICH WILL NOW PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY.

B. THE MEETING AGREED TO EMPOWER THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE ASEAN LABOUR MINISTERS (SAMAK SUNTHORAWET) TO TAKE INITIATIVES TO COLLECT, COMPILE, EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT INFORMATION ON LABOUR LAWS AND PRACTICES IN THE FIVE ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES.

C. IN KEEPING WITH THE ASEAN PRACTICE OF CONSULTATIONS, THE MEETING CONSIDERED AND DISCUSSED FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE HELD IN JUNE 1976 AS WELL AS ISSUES LIKE THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, LABOUR ADMINISTRATION, CONDITIONS OF WORK OF NURSING PERSONNEL AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, WHICH ARE ON THE AGENDA OF THE FORTHCOMING SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. UNQUOTE

3. COMMENT: DESPITE ACCOMPANYING HOOPLA, SECOND ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH OF SUBSTANCE. MINISTERS AGREED TO EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL AND INFORMATION BUT APPARENTLY COULD NOT ARRIVE AT COMMON POSITION ILO. AS THIRD ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL 1979, COOPERATION IN LABOR FIELD HARDLY QUALIFIES AS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR ASEAN.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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